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INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your purchase of the SPRINTER HIGH SPEED THERMAL LINE PRINTER. You now own one of the most reliable printer units ever introduced for use with personal computers, with a printing mechanism backed by field experience with more than a million similar points.

The SPRINTER uses true line-printing technology, in which 40 characters are simultaneously produced as a 5 x 8 character font pattern with a matrix raster of 7 x 10 dots. The dot matrices are contiguous across the printed page and make it possible for the printer to be used as a plotter as well as a character printer.

Lines of dots are produced by an oscillating motion of two thermal heads, each of which simultaneously produces 20 dots on thermographic paper stock. Since the lightweight heads move only a fraction of an inch, they are able to reverse direction very quickly, with high energy efficiency. Their design permits the use of a low-voltage DC motor with low power consumption, which is easily controlled for starting and stopping.

During the printing operation, as the print heads reverse their direction of travel, the paper is advanced one dot position by a gear cam driven by the DC motor. The unique design simplicity is the foundation upon which the reliability and performance of the SPRINTER is built.

The thermal heads used in the SPRINTER PRINTER are made from ceramic-like substrate on which are built 20 printing dot sites. The sites are built up above the substrate to enhance contact with the thermal paper and to reduce frictional drag. Dot impressions are created by selectively heating the thermal head dot sites, which in turn transfer their heat to a point on the paper with which they are in contact. At the point of contact, a special coating on the paper will change color and produce a visible impression. The SPRINTER is capable of creating more than 10,000 dot impressions every second!

DESCRIPTION

The SPRINTER is enclosed in a tough ABS molded case which is extremely resistant to impact damage. The transparent paper cover is made from durable acrylic material similar to that used in aircraft windshields. The fine matte case finish requires no special care and should be cleaned, if necessary, by wiping with a slightly damp cloth. Wax cleaners should not be used. The paper cover may be cleaned with any good quality acrylic cleaner which does not contain abrasives.

The accompanying Figure 1 illustrates the major components of the SPRINTER.

The paper cover (1) is hinged to permit a roll of paper to be loaded and positioned.

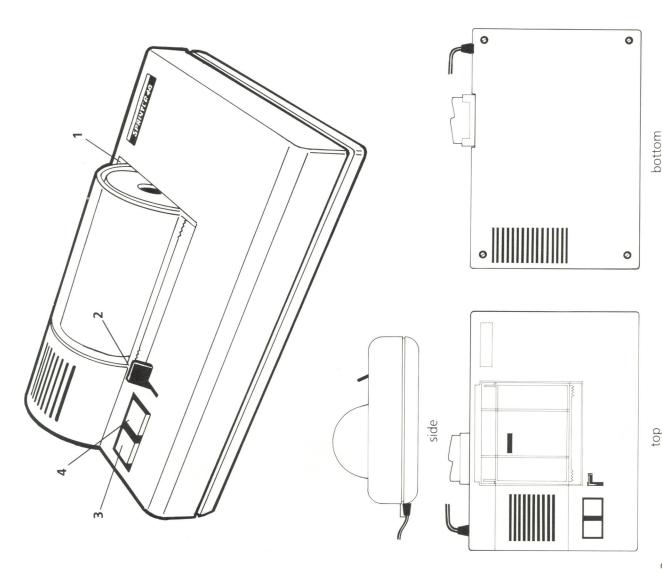
The paper release lever (2) is provided to simplify the threading of a new paper roll into the printing mechanism.

The external power switch (3) and the paper advance switch (4) are conveniently provided on the front surface of the unit.

Ventilation slots are provided through the top and bottom covers for convection cooling of internal components; the SPRINTER should always be placed on a hard surface so that the cooling vents are not obstructed in any way.

All connections to the SPRINTER are made through an edge-type connector at the rear of the unit.

Access to the SPRINTER components may be gained by first removing the rubber feet under the lower case, and then removing the recessed screws which secure the top and bottom case sections.



POWER REQUIREMENTS

The label on the underside of the lower case will indicate the correct power supply. Serious damage may result from attempting to operate from an incorrect power source. Field modification to convert a unit from one power source to another is not recommended due to possible safety hazards.

The energy-efficient SPRINTER consumes only about 3 watts of power and is silent when not printing. The low power drain makes it convenient to power up with the host computer.

When printing begins, power consumption rises in proportion to the printing speed and to the number of dots being printed. The power consumption, when printing full character lines at 4 lines per second, is approximately 30 watts.

As a reminder to switch the printer off when not in use, the power switch is located on the upper cover, and indicates clearly the **ON** or **OFF** condition by its position.

In addition to providing its own power, the SPRINTER also furnishes regulated 5 volt power at the interface edge connector. When constructing customer interfaces, care should be taken to avoid short-circuits or excessive loads on this power supply. It is shared with the main VLSI (Very Large Scale Integration) controller which operates the printer, and any signals or fluctuations introduced on this line may affect correct printer operation. Current consumption from the edge connector should be limited to 200 milliamps to avoid overheating the printer party.

PRINTING PAPER

hese specifications, has been included with your print contrast. It is particularly important to avoid pack. A 2.5-inch diameter roll of paper, meeting Your SPRINTER is designed to use standard use of abrasive papers, which can cause severe nead damage in less than two hours of printing result in poor heat transfer, smearing and poor themographic printing paper in roll or fan-fold printer. Insure that the correct paper is always the paper is important for correct operation of the printer. Incorrect or low-quality paper may For quality printing and longer head life use used, for the sensitivity and smoothness of recommended grades of paper only. Refer to the Appendix in the back of this manual for a complete summary of paper types. Your SPRINTER will accept fan-folded paper in addition to paper rolls. A fan-fold stack should be placed behind the printer and threaded under the rear edge of the paper roll cover. Again, use only recommended grades of paper.

STEP 3 STEP 4 STEP 2 STEP 1 STEP 5

LOADING ROLL PAPER INTO THE PRINTER

Paper loading may be easily accomplished by following the correct steps. Refer to Figure 2.

STEP 1 Lift the paper receptacle cover, and pull the paper release lever forward.

suggested that the paper roll is placed at first in the fully opened paper receptacle cover, with the loose end coming from underneath. Insert the leading edge of the paper below the rubber platen, and push gently with a side-to-side motion until the edge of the paper appears on top of the rubber platen.

STEP 3 Grasp the end of the threaded paper and pull approximately 6 inches of paper through the thermal head area. At this point, insure that the paper is centered on the rubber platen, and is aligned properly. When correct alignment has been confirmed, pull both ends of the paper to insure that it is firmly wound around the rubber platen and return the paper release lever to the rear position.

STEP 4 Roll the paper supply roll forward into the receptacle. Grasp the leading edge of the paper and hold it toward the front of the printing unit, then close the transparent cover.

rectly by operating the manual paper advance switch. Check that the paper remains properly centered within the thermal head area. When you are satisfied that threading has been satisfactorily accomplished, excess paper may be removed, using the built-in paper tearing edge.

REMOVING A PARTIAL ROLL OF PAPER

In the event that a partially-used paper roll should be removed, follow these simple steps:

STEP 1 Tear off any excess paper protruding from the print head, using the built-in paper tearing edge.

STEP 2 Pull the paper release lever forward to release pressure on the rubber platen.

STEP 3 Open the paper receptacle cover, grasp the partially-used roll and lift it upward and to the rear, moving it gently from side-to-side to prevent binding in the print head area as the paper is withdrawn.

Alternatively, the paper web may be cut with scissors behind the lead-in slot to the printer. The partially-used roll may then be lifted out, and the paper in the printer head ejected by activating the manual paper advance switch until all of the paper has passed through the print head.

LOADING FAN-FOLD PAPER

the incoming stack. Monitor the printer to insure cover and use the same threading procedure described for roll paper. Outgoing paper may be aleceptacle is covered, then open the transparent do not interfere with each other. Insure that the that the incoming and outgoing stacks of paper doubt, cut off a short length of paper and run it owed to stack in front of the printer, or behind through the print head using the manual paper sensitized (glossier) side of the paper has been closed. Push the paper forward until the paper baper should be inserted with the paper cover placed in contact with the thermal heads. If in should be placed behind the printer. A slot is provided at the rear of the transparent paper cover through which the leading edge of the When using fan-fold paper, the stack advance switch.

mately one second, the printer will begin to print the printer, the correct loading of the paper, and Checking the printer (test mode). A self test placed into this mode, the printer will repeatedly print the character set across the paper in a coninuous pattern. A test mode is entered by holdmode selector switch. The correct operation of the character set. It will continue printing until of the printer or disconnecting it from its interace. This test mode will also demonstrate the ing the paper advance switch active and then pressing the power switch ON. After approxito provide a simple operational check. When the paper advance switch is released, wherepower availability can all be confirmed in this manner, without changing the configuration mode has been built into the VLSI controller, fast printout speed of which the SPRINTER is upon it will enter the mode selected on the

CUSTOM INTERFACING

Because there are so many alternative methods of interfacing with various computers, this section will fully explain how the SPRINTER interface operates, so that a custom interface can be constructed, if desired. Interface sets for specific computers are available too. (Refer to the following section: Interfacing to Specific Computers with factory Cables.)

PARALLEL VERSUS SERIAL INTERFACE

printer. The rate at which it can then be refilled is transmitted characters. The formal name of this technique is "single line buffering", which india rate which will permit it to print continuously "action code" initiates the physical printing of a function of the host computer and the interstarting and stopping for individual print lines, 40-character limit is reached, or until an open cates that the buffer cannot be refilled until it it is most efficient when it is furnished data at buffer which stores the character codes to be The SPRINTER is a very fast synchronous computer. This buffer is filled until either the has been "emptied" on to the paper by the printed as they are transmitted from a host The VLSI controller includes a 40-character printing mechanism. While it is capable of face mode selected.

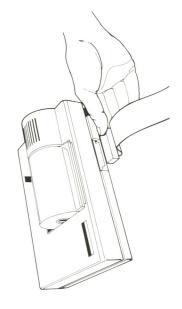
"BUSY" signal which appears momentarily as inthis mode is used, the SPRINTER can be operated coming characters are being examined and buff-Data cannot be recognized when the busy signal mode provides for 7 bits of data to be presented mended because it is usually the least expensive ously because it is not being slowed by the host to the SPRINTER with a DATA STROBE signal incomputer. The 7-bit parallel interface is recominterface to build, and it will permit the unit to dicating the validity of the data. The SPRINTER SPRINTER is the 7-bit parallel interface. When at full speed and will appear to print continuered, and during the physical printing action. be effectively used as a graphic plotter. The will signal that it can accept the data with a The fastest mode supported by the

A complete set of lower serial interface speeds are also provided in the SPRINTER VLSI controller, using the data conventions of the RS-232 data interchange protocol. The most rapid of these protocols takes place at 9600 bits per second and the least rapid at 110 bits per second.

with software. In most cases, if two STOP bits are The serial interface software must also honor the through a 'DATA SET READY' line on the RS-232 ine), this type of interface will seriously degrade puters. Interface cables will be available to invert the fastest rate supported by the host computer. signal at the destination computer will be deterthis signal external to the host computer; other cables will be available which will require the in-The buffering step can be accomplished during The serial transfer rate of 110 BAUD corresponds to a print rate of ten characters per second. Since the SPRINTER can print at up to 160 the performance of the SPRINTER 40. If a serial puters (APPLE for example). The polarity of the and will not necessarily be the same in all commined by the intervening buffers and inverters urnished, the BUSY signal need only be moniconnector. With normal computer wiring, this version be accomplished in the host computer ored for completion of the printing operation. characters per second (4 lines x 40 characters/ though these devices are not used on all comnterface must be used, we encourage use of BUSY signal. Typically, it is routed to the host will make the signal available to software on a bit inside a serial interface controller IC, althe STOP bits for characters which do not nitiate printing.

OPERATION OF THE SPRINTER 40 PARALLEL INTERFACE

seven data lines are needed to transfer each byte vice and thus into the input gates of metal oxide represented by a voltage level between 0 and .4 data bits are routed directly to the controller desemiconductor field effect transistors (MOSFET) volts and a one (1) bit would be represented by they respond to TTL voltage levels, they require no power and can be driven by very low power a voltage level between 2.4 and 5 volts. These permit signals higher than 5 volts to come into whether character or graphic in nature), only HIGH data levels. Thus a zero (0) bit would be which require virtually no current. Thus while to damage from high voltage static electricity, logic including CMOS logic operated at 5 volt on static-prone carpeting. In addition, do not This section will furnish explicit electrical and timing information. Since all data in the :hese data lines are interpreted as TTL active levels. This property makes them vulnerable however, and care should be taken to avoid touching the edge connector while working of information. In the passive parallel cable, SPRINTER 40 are encoded into 7-bit groups contact with these data lines.



In order to indicate the validity of the seven data lines, another signal must be presented by the host computer to verify that it is placing valid information on them. This strobe signal is accepted on the same trace on the edge connector as the serial input data stream. (NOTE: The complete pinout of this edge connector may be found in the Appendix.)

the SPRINTER 40. Just prior to the removal of the being sent by the host, and then assert the BUSY stabilize on the interface cable, sample the state ong as this sequence is honored, any type of indicates that the furnished byte of data has been edge (ACK) is asserted by the SPRINTER. This innished as an active LOW signal which returns to BUSY signal, another signal known as acknowl-The DATA STROBE signal is represented by to the TTL HIGH level. This transition may occur host computer must not alter the state of these the host on a single eight bit port. Upon receipt mately 25 microseconds to allow the signals to processed. The ACK signal is removed simultaerface may be inserted between the host and a transition of this line from the TTL LOW level changed, thus permitting the entire output of signal as an active HIGH level to the host. The neously with the removal of BUSY. ACK is furooth a pulse type signal (ACK) and a level type at the same time that the seven data lines are state, the SPRINTER 40 will pause for approxiof the seven data lines to determine the code a HIGH level upon the removal of BUSY. Thus turned to the LOW level) by the SPRINTER. As lines until the BUSY signal is removed (i.e. resignal (BUSY) are available as a basis for conof the DATA STROBE transition to the HIGH structing other external parallel interfaces.

These signals were developed for a very fast series of printers, to occur very rapidly and to be implemented in discrete hardware logic. In the SPRINTER controller, these signals are implemented in a microprogrammed interface section which permits the same hardware to be used in several different types of interfaces. As a result the timing sequence is expanded although the same relative relations are present. Since most host computers implement their parallel interfaces in software, they will be quite compatible with this technique. The basic software sequence followed in the host should be as follows:

- 1. Monitor the BUSY signal until it is inactive. If it fails to become inactive, manual corrective action must be taken.
- 2. Remove the DATA STROBE signal.
- Assert the DATA STROBE signal and the seven data signals.
- 4. Pause approximately 30 microseconds.
- 5. Confirm receipt of data by recognition of the BUSY signal.
 - If BUSY not asserted, printer is inactive or interface has failed. Take appropriate manual recovery action.
- 7. If BUSY is asserted, begin preparation of next data byte, or next line of characters, as appropriate.
- 8. Return to step 1 unless all printing has been accomplished.

During step 7, when the data from the host is either being buffered or printed, both the host and SPRINTER can be working in parallel. In this manner the host has the maximum time to prepare the next data byte while the SPRINTER is processing the previous data byte, or printing the completed line of characters. This is an important aspect, particularly when graphics information is being transmitted to the SPRINTER.

these diodes would route any voltage excursions power supply. While this is a highly unlikly prospect, the interface designer should be aware of pulled low. This circuit is essentially a 470 ohm over approximately 35 volts into the SPRINTER resistor tied to the SPRINTER 5 volt supply and signals are low. There is an additional invisible The BUSY signal and ACK signals are proproblems in the event that they are externally clamping diode built into the transistor which duced by an open collector circuit to prevent connects the collector to the main DC supply capacitor. In the event that an inductive load pulled to ground by a transistor when these should be connected to either of these lines, its presence. This interface port can normally be connected with proper cables to a 'Centronics' type interface cable, although jumpers may have to be modified in some of these units to produce or honor the proper polarity of the BUSY or DATA STROBE signals. In most cases these interfaces can be directly used without modification of resident BASIC software and system PRINT intrinsics. The active Centronics cable contains slight hardware to standardize these signals to the highest speed hardware version of these signals.

SERIAL INTERFACING

used is the RS-232 format for serial data with the printer. This is because it is logistically impossible same ASCII character encoding used for all printprinter at the serial transmission rates. For more may still be achieved. When using serial interfacthe rate at which dots must be furnished to the to furnish data rapidly enough to keep up with information refer to the GRAPHICS section of 9600 Baud, very high character printing rates ing, only three data lines are required, SERIAL DATA, GROUND, and BUSY. The data format ing. The serial interface looks for a START bit, this manual. With higher Baud rates, such as eight data bits, and one or more STOP bits. SPRINTER may only be used as a character When serial interfacing is used, the

volts will be recognized as (0) and any signal less volt levels or higher, providing the logic low level It will also work with CMOS logic, operated at 5 SPRINTER controller board which permits either nected to the SERIAL DATA/DATA STROBE line. to represent a logic zero (0) and more negative than .4 volts will be recognized as logic one (1). than -3 volts to represent a logic one (1). The SPRINTER is more tolerant than this in its inter-The information in RS-232 is theoretically This is accomplished by a simple circuit on the theoretically swing more positive than 3 volts normal TTL levels or RS-232 levels to be conpretation; any signal more positive than 2.4 encoded as a positive and negative voltage swing centered at zero volts. Signals must is less than .4 volts.

When the definition of RS-232 is examined, the START bit emerges as a HIGH (>2.4 VOLT) signal and the STOP bit emerges as a LOW (<0.4 VOLT) signal. Data bits appear as apparently inverted, in that zeros are represented as HIGH signals and ones are represented as LOW signals. Although eight data bits must be transmitted and received, the seven bit ASCII coding used implies that the eighth bit must be a logic zero, i.e. a HIGH data bit. (The value is actually ignored.) Data bits are transmitted least significant bit first through most significant bit last. The sequence is thus:

(HIGH)								(HIGH)	(LOW)	(LOW)
START BIT	DATA 0	DATA 1	DATA 2	DATA 3	DATA 4	DATA 5	DATA 6	DATA 7	STOP BIT	STOP BIT

After the transmission of the complete byte, transmission of the next byte may begin if it is ready. If not, the data line should assume the inactive level which is represented by a LOW level. The BUSY line will be asserted during the START bit and will be removed during either the first or second STOP bit, depending upon the data transmission rate selected. The BUSY signal will thus have been removed before the next START bit time interval begins, unless the printer has initiated a physical printing operation.

INTERFACING TO SPECIFIC COMPUTERS WITH

GENERAL PURPOSE CENTRONICS CABLE

This cable is available with the male 36 pin "tongue and groove" connector. A printed circuit in the cable contains logic to standardize signals from the source and to perform cross connections to the SPRINTER cable. This is an active device and is powered from the 5 volt supply in the SPRINTER while it is powered up.

GENERAL PURPOSE RS-232 CABLE

This cable is wired to mate with normal RS-232 cables and acts as a 'data set'. It furnishes a "data set ready" signal generated from the SPRINTER BUSY signal and terminates in a 25-pin male 'D' type connector. The board includes several jumpers for optional generation of the special signals required by some computers. It terminates in an edge connector for direct connection to the SPRINTER. It is also powered by the SPRINTER.

GENERAL PURPOSE PASSIVE CABLE

This cable furnishes the SPRINTER edge connector on one end of a ribbon cable, giving the user access to every signal in the SPRINTER interface, including the SPRINTER 5 volt power supply. Either special serial or parallel connectors may be connected to this cable to make a custom serial or parallel interface for the computer. The pinout of this cable is included in the cable package.

RS-80

The SPRINTER 40/TRS-80 interface cable is a parallel interface cable which responds to bus addressing, latches data for the SPRINTER, and furnishes a readable response to interrogation of the BUSY signal recognizable by the standard TRS-80 software. This interface contains several active devices and is automatically powered by the SPRINTER internal power supply. A schematic of the unit is included in its package. With this unit installed, it will be necessary to power up the SPRINTER whenever the TRS-80 is operating, to avoid interference with the internal bus of the TRS-80. No modification of the TRS-80 is required. This unit connects directly to the TRS-80 keyboard edge connector.

Interface can also be accomplished with our general Centronics standard cable using one of the Radio Shack Centronics interface devices. This alternative may be useful if one of the Radio Shack interfaces is already available.

APPLE CARD

displays on the SPRINTER by pressing keys on the The SPRINTER 40/APPLE interface cable is a SPRINTER, using the parallel interface. The interspond to APPLESOFT print commands to permit normal printing. The SPRINTER does not have to be powered up when using the APPLE interface APPLE computer, and obeys the protocol of the outer in one of the device slots. The card draws APPLE for transferring data to a device controlface card contains software to dump all Apple ler. It may thus be used with APPLESOFT BASIC circuit board, to be inserted in the APPLE comcard unless printing is actually under way. The power from the APPLE power supply and prokeyboard. It also connects the SPRINTER to regrams the APPLE 6502 processor to execute required protocol to communicate with the or other standard Apple-furnished software APPLE card requires no modification to the

packages for character printing. The interface card includes a cable which connects directly to the edge connector on the rear of the SPRINTER

The Apple can also be used with our active Centronics cable driven by the Apple Centronics printer card, but this is an expensive combination and is not recommended unless the Apple card is already available, since it does not include software for printing Apple displays.

PET INTERFACE

The PET interface requires a modified SPRINTER to support the PET character set. This modification performs the necessary protocol of the IEEE-488 interface and allows the PET IEEE bus connector to be daisy-chained to the SPRINTER in accordance with the bus philosophy. The special SPRINTER unit sold for this purpose will include the special interconnect cable required to connect to the PET computer. The PET modification deletes some standard features of the SPRINTER to make it more uniquely suited to the needs of the PET. Check with your SPRINTER supplier for availability.

ATARI 400 AND 800

The ATARI computers can be interfaced in several ways. The ATARI family of componenets includes printers which interface directly to the main unit, thus consuming some of the interface ports, and printers which interface to the ATARI 850 Centronics port, which then retains the ability to perform additional interfacing. Our cabling interfaces to the 850 Centronics port through use of a simple interconnect cable. In this manner, the SPRINTER is directly accessible through normal print logic in both the 400 and 800 computers. Use of the serial ports on the 850 is not recommended, because the faster parallel port is available.

MATTEL INTELLIVISION

An interface to the Mattel keyboard unit will be made available for direct interface in the near future. Check your supplier for availability.

CHARACTER PRINTING

Character printing may be simply accomplished from all interfaces. The SPRINTER recognizes 96 ASCII character codes as printable characters and prints them. In addition, it recognizes certain other codes with numerical values between 0 and 31 decimal as action codes, which can trigger changes of printing mode. Each of these action codes is explained below. The character font and association with ASCII representation are presented in the Appendix.

print buffer is cleared, the printing speed is set to tested to determine the interface mode and type of paper being used. Characters will be accepted characters in excess of the first 40 printable characters sent prior to one of these action codes will be ignored by the SPRINTER; the receipt of these when the printer is powered up. At this time the mmediately cleared before accepting additional into the internal print buffer until either the acany of which will initiate physical printing. Any consumed in their transmission. Following the tion code 'CR' or 'LF' or CNTRL-R are received, physical printing of any line, the print buffer is characters will affect nothing but for the time four lines per second, and the mode switch is Character mode of operation is assumed characters

Carriage Return Decimal (13) Octal (15) Hex (D)

will be printed starting at the leftmost column on ceipt of one of the other codes, this second code tion. Subsequent receipt of every repeat immedithe page. Blank characters will be printed in the the receipt of this code, the buffered characters the printing of a single blank character line. This The 'CR' character is used to cause normal characters than 40 have been buffered prior to SPRINTER will ignore the second of these if they are sent in pairs. The physical printing operation empty positions in the buffer. Since many comately following one of these codes will result in remaining right columns corresponding to the received. If this operation is followed by the rewill be absorbed by the controller without acprinting of a character line. If fewer printable the 'CR' and 'LF' in paired combinations, the pattern is broken by the receipt of any other will begin when any of the three codes are puters contain software which generate code by the controller.

Line Feed Decimal (10) Octal (12) Hex (A)

The LF code functions identically to the Carriage Return. A carriage return following it will be absorbed (in a similar manner to the situation described for Carriage Return.)

CNTRL-R Decimal (18) Octal (22) Hex (12)

This action code is treated identically to the carriage return and has the same relationship to the line feed code. The only manner in which it differs is that when it initiates physical printing, and the printed buffer contains fewer than 40 characters, the buffered characters will be right-justified in the print buffer, and the vacated positions will be filled with blanks prior to printing. Thus information will appear to have been shifted to the rightmost column prior to being printed. The use of the CNTRL-R is to suggest "Right justify".

VERTICAL-TAB Decimal (11) Octal (13) Hex (08)

This action code followed by another code causes the SPRINTER to execute a multiple line feed. The next code transmitted after the CNTRL-M is interpreted by the SPRINTER as a binary number, indicating how many lines should be skipped in the multiple line feed. The meaningful range of values are 1 through 127, represented as some 7-bit ASCII code. Precisely this many lines will be printed as blank character lines following receipt of the second code.

FORM FEED Decimal (12) Octal (14) Hex (0C)

Receipt of this code causes the SPRINTER to skip eight lines if the fan-fold switch is set to "roll paper," or in all early units. In later units, if the switch is set to fan fold paper mode, receipt of this code will cause the SPRINTER to skip to the head of the next logical page, based on the size and its position on the current page.

CNTRL-G Decimal (7) Octal (7) Hex (7)

This code can be thought of as an escape to GRAPHICS code. It can be received when using a buffer has been cleared. If it is received when the printer. For more information refer to the section dly to the printer. Following receipt of this code tion. It will remain in this mode as long as data is be stopped and the controller will clear the print the SPRINTER will immediately actuate the print of the buffer will be cleared prior to starting the parallel interface capable of supplying data rapmechanism and enter graphics mode of opera-This code may be meaningfully received followreceived rapidly enough to satisfy the data rate print buffer contains information, the contents data is not received for printing, the printer will required by the moving printer. If at any time buffer and return to normal character mode. ing power up, or at any time when the print on GRAPHICS.

CNTRL-S Decimal (19) Octal (23) Hex (13)

the controller. The primary purpose of this ability nism at three different speeds. While the normal the Appendix for the ASCII name of these codes) The ability to respond to speed control is a function of the VLSI controller and early units can be is to reduce the data rate required from the host updated to obtain this ability by replacement of of the CNTRL-S code followed by an ASCII decimal valued code of either 2, 3, or 4 (see table in four lines per second, the print mechanism can also be operated at three and two lines per second. This action is initiated by the transmission speed of the unit at power up is approximately ability to control the speed of the print mecha-Later models of the SPRINTER include the computer during graphics mode.

CNTRL-Q Decimal (17) Octal (21) Hex (11)

This code is used in later units to set the logical page size of fan fold paper. (See auto-fan fold mode.) This code must be followed by a subsequent code which is interpreted as the binary value (1-127) of the logical page. A size of zero will be ignored. When this code is received, the printer is assumed to be set to approximately three lines from the top of a page.

AUTO-WRAPAROUND

characters on the following line rather than trunif the host contains unmodifiable software (such as in a ROM BASIC system) which will try to print used in applications formerly requiring an 80 colcharacters in the buffer, clear the buffer, and rethe ability to 'wraparound' any characters in excess of the 40 characters which will fit onto the normal print line. In this mode, the printer interface will go 'BUSY' following the receipt of the Later models of the SPRINTER also include turn to accept more characters. In this manner, character lines wider than forty characters, the one of the mode switches located in the paper fortieth character and will physically print the cating them. This permits the SPRINTER to be SPRINTER will automatically print these extra umn printer. Auto-wraparound is selected by feed chute.

is more aesthetically pleasing to some observers, be displayed on the right side of the page which ooth auto-wraparound and auto-justify are conained in the VLSI controller and are available on around. In this manner, the tail end of lines may the beginning of the following line. The right or or right justify any partial line which is wrapped of right justifying short continuations of lines of particularly when tabular oriented information program code rather than continuing them to matches the style used by many programmers left justify mode is only functional when autoany SPRINTER using the later model controller mode, it is possible to have the SPRINTER left wraparound has been selected. The logic for is being printed such as assembly languages or PASCAL. The right justified wraparound When operating in auto-wraparound

AUTO-FAN FOLD PAPER MODE

Fan-folded paper may be used with any SPRINTER. A slot at the rear of the paper cover permits external paper insertion. Later models also include additional logic in the controller to track the volume of material being printed on a conceptual page of paper, and to skip across the fold line between pages automatically. There is no hardware outside the controller to physically identify the page boundary. The page boundary is determined by instructing the controller through the transmission of CNTRL followed by another code indicating the number of lines which should be on the page. This number is encoded as the number of TOTAL lines on the page, including six blank lines printed by the

controller when the end of the logical page is reached. when the SPRINTER reaches this TO-TAL-6 lines, it will automatically print six blank lines, placing three of these at the end of the current page, and three of them at the top of the following page.

will assume (at power up, or following any use of graphics mode is entered and continued across a ines from the top of a new sheet. The SPRINTER will subsequently hold this approximate position the PAPER ADVANCE switch), that the operator six-line gaps automatically being inserted by the physical lines may be printed on roll paper, with erator to cut the printed areas apart, or fold the SPRINTER as text is printed. This permits the opoutput to achieve a fan-fold listing. The controlper. In this manner, pseudo pages of up to 120 at the top of following pages, assuming that it page end, the SPRINTER will print a continuous has positioned the paper approximately three with the SPRINTER. Since the SPRINTER cannot may be merged with normal text without interand the fan-fold mode is active, the SPRINTER the 11-inch-high paper recommended for use used, this mode may also be used with roll pa-When paper is loaded into the SPRINTER ength. The default page size has been set for printing of graphics material, so that pictures ler also accounts for page length during the has been programmed with the proper line distinguish whether fan-fold paper is being ference with page boundaries. However, if block of graphic material.

Fan-fold paper can be used on any model SPRINTER without the use of the auto-fanfold feature. In this case, printing will occur across the fold seams of the paper, producing a continuous output.

PRINTING GRAPHICS INFORMATION

lel interface is required, since forty bytes must be formation, but the actual bits sent are plotted as producing the total dot line. The printing mechadition to the normal mode in which information s sent to the SPRINTER as ASCII codes causing it dots across the 280-dot line of the printer. Each The graphic plotter mode is provided in adhost computer sends the same 7-bit bytes of inreversing direction. The high speed of the paralto draw the fonts of characters from its internal SPRINTER takes place while the print heads are nism must run continuously because there are character pattern memory. In plot mode, the of the 40 thermal dot sites prints seven dots, no interline blanks. All data transfer to the transferred during each reversal.

will develop a graphic bitmap or plotting array of dots. This will represent the dot data transferred In a normal application, the host computer to the SPRINTER when plotting. The role of the must be able to prepare forty bytes of data duror that a complete dot line will be printed each transfer it during the remaining approximately host computer is to prepare, as necessary, the SPRINTER at four lines per second, this implies that forty dot lines will be printed each second guage routines running in any of the common next dot line while the previously transmitted five milliseconds. Short, simple assembly lantwenty five milliseconds. The host computer host microprocessors will normally meet this ing approximately twenty milliseconds, and line is being printed. When operating the requirement

GRAPHICS DATA TRANSFER

the print mechanism and allow it to accelerate to Upon receipt of the CNTRL-G code, causing the fortieth byte of information for each dot line, each byte. If the data byte has not been received verses its direction of travel, the BUSY condition No explicit action code is required or allowed for the speed to be varied between 4, 3, and 2 lines insures that all data can be received prior to the speed. When a complete pair of blank dot lines per second. As the SPRINTER is waiting for data period for each byte transfer to the SPRINTER is entry to graphics mode, the controller will start to be received, a timing counter is activated for thermal heads passing the points at which they before this counter clears, the interface signals mode and a return to the mode established be-SPRINTER will attempt to accept data from the ore graphics mode was entered. This timeout dots are stored in the internal buffer and printtime determined by the rate of speed at which curred. This will result in an exit from graphics the SPRINTER interface will remain BUSY until initiation of the physical printing. The timeout has been printed and the print mechanism rethe mechanism is operating. Later units allow the controller that a 'graphic timeout' has ocmust print the buffered dots. The transmitted proper position on the paper. Upon receipt of completion of the physical printing operation. ng occurs as the mechanism passes over the seven dots each, within a specified period of given in the following table for each printing will be removed from the interface and the host computer. It can accept forty bytes, of

Printing Rate Max time between (later units) NOT BUSY and next DATA STROBE

40 µs	130 µs	220 µs
40 µs	70 µs	100 µs
4 lps	3 lps	2 lps

ORIENTATION OF THE GRAPHIC MATRIX

be furnished rapidly enough. In most computers, the bitmap which can be stored in the host comcant bit (DATA 0) will be printed in the rightmost side of each byte of dots. The printed image will particular limit on its length, as long as data can For example, it would be impossible to print the contents of an eighty column display across the width of the printer, but quite possible to dump within each byte (DATA 6) will be printed in the this same information rotated 90 degrees since data plotted will be placed in the leftmost print leftmost side of each byte and the least signifithe rightmost column. The most significant bit such an image would require typically 240 dot be, at most, 280 dots in width, but there is no the realistic limit will correspond to the size of help to think of the image rotated 90 degrees. column and the fortieth byte will be placed in Within each line of dots, the first byte of puter's memory. In some applications it may lines in height by 560 dot columns in width.

Whenever the printing mechanism is stopped at the completion of a block of graphic printing, there will always be a group of several blank dot lines, corresponding to the acceleration and deceleration time of the print mechanism. It is impossible to eliminate this phenomena, but this will normally cause no problem because some interblock spacing is usually desirable between graphics and surrounding

GRAPHICS BROWNOUT

More power is used in the conversion of the relatively sparse, and characters are separated by To avoid this the SPRINTER has been designed to raster. While all-black rasters are not particularly interesting or useful, they can conceivably occur. half or fewer of the dots at full speed, or, in later print at full speed at 50% duty cycle. It will print models, all of the dots at half speed (2 lines/secolank columns and rows. When printing graphduced corresponding to 'black' areas in the dot lines) can be printed normally if this condition is ond). Some additional reserve capacity insures amount of power since character patterns are printer motor or the controller board. Normal character printing consumes a relatively small ics, potentially many more dots must be prothat short bursts of dark printing (several dot thermal paper than is needed to operate the not sustained.

In the event that sustained dark printing is attempted, protective circuitry in the SPRINTER power supply will activate within approximately eight dot lines and reduce the power to the print mechanism. This will appear as a slowing of the print image. This

condition can be thought of as a power brownout. It means "SLOWDOWN!" When the unit is operated at one of the lower speeds such as 3 or 2 lines per second, the rate of power usage is inherently reduced. It is recommended that 2 lines per second be used for printing of very dark images. If sustained black printing is attempted, a protective thermal fuse in the power supply may also be activated. This will necessitate opening the printer case and replacing the fuse before the printer can be used further.

CUSTOMER SERVICING OPERATIONS

In normal operation your SPRINTER should print many hundreds of thousands of lines without requiring service. The following service operations are described because they might be required eventually. We want you to know how to perform them correctly if they should become necessary.

OPENING THE SPRINTER CASE

STEP 1 UNPLUG THE SPRINTER FROM ITS WALL OUTLET AND THE HOST COMPUTER. Never attempt to perform any service step with the unit connected to any other device. Remove any roll paper contained in the paper compartment.

STEP 2 Remove the plastic handle from the paper release lever by pulling up on the handle, without bending it. The handle is held by friction on the lever it covers.

STEP 3 Pull out the four small rubber feet under the case. The feet are held in place by friction. This will provide access to four recessed screws. Remove the screws with a small straight blade screwdriver by rotating them counterclockwise.

STEP 4 Hold the case together while it is turned upright, then lift the upper case from the lower case.

CLOSING THE SPRINTER CASE

placed in the forward position. Insure that the placed in the forward position. Insure that the power cord strain relief is inserted into the opening in the rear of the case. Insure that the printer is firmly attached to the controller board, and that all circuit boards and the power transformer are firmly attached to the lower case. Insure that no foreign objects (tools, screws, paper, etc.) remain inside the case and that the ventilation slots are unobstructed.

STEP 2 Place the upper case on top of the lower case, and align correctly. Holding the two case halves together, invert the unit and reinstall the four screws. Reinsert the four rubber feet into the screw holes on the lower case. Note that these feet are necessary to insure that the SPRINTER sits high enough to allow ventilation of the case.

STEP 3 Reinstall the paper release lever on its shaft and load the printer with paper.

STEP 4 Place the printer into self test mode to confirm correct reassembly.

REMOVAL OF THE PRINTER MECHANISM

STEP 1 Release the ribbon cables by lifting alternately on each end of each connector and removing the ribbon cable at an angle. If the connector appears to bind, do not force it, but work alternately at each end of the connector until it loosens. There are two 21 position connectors, and a small 6 position connectors, and a small 6 position connector. NEVER SHARPLY FOLD THE RIBBON CABLES AS THIS MAY CAUSE INTERNAL FAILURE OF THE PRINTED CONDUCTORS AND MAY REQUIRE REPLACEMENT OF THE PRINTER MECHANISM.

STEP 2 Remove the four 8-32 screws holding the printer to the posts on the printed circuit board. Lift the printing mechanism vertically until it is clear of the mounting posts.

REPLACEMENT OF THE PRINTER MECHANISM

STEP 1 Replace the print mechanism on the four mounting posts. Reinsert the four screws holding the printer to the posts.

STEP 2 Replace the two 21-position ribbon connectors into their respective sockets by holding firmly onto the reinforced area just above the edge of the connector, and pressing them vertically into the connectors.

STEP 3 Replace the smaller connector, insuring that the wires pass under the edge of the sheet metal just behind the socket and emerge to the right side of the connector. The ribbon should not be forced forward. Insure that the ribbon portion of the cable rises up and over the corner of the printing unit and that it does not interfere with either the connections to the printer motor or the nearby other ribbon connector. BE PAR-TICULARLY CAREFUL THAT YOU DO NOT SHARPLY FOLD THIS SMALL RIBBON CABLE AS YOU INSERT THE CONNECTOR.

REPLACEMENT OF THERMAL HEADS

STEP 1 Remove the printer mechanism as described above.

from the top surface of the thermal head pressure plate around under the printer to a metal cross bar on the underside of the printer. Place a thin bladed screwdriver between the spring and the metal cross bar, and lift the spring free of the small hole in which it resides. Perform the same operation on the end of the spring inserted into the pressure plate, on the top side. The spring may now be slid out of the print mechanism, leaving the pressure plate pressed loosely against the platen.

STEP 3 Gently work the pressure plate out of the positioning notches. The pressure plate will not release entirely from the printer; the goal is to release it enough to obtain access to the underside of the pressure plate by lifting and folding it backwards, away from the platen.

STEP 4 Loosen the small screws holding the spring fingers against the thermal head, until the thermal head can be slid from under the fingers.

STEP 5 Install the new thermal head, being careful to align the conductive pads in the head with the conductive pads on the end of the ribbon cable. Tighten the small screws along the pressure plate.

STEP 6 Work the pressure head back into the positioning slots and reinstall the pressure spring. Note that the spring is not symmetrical, but has a top and bottom side to help clear the ribbon connector. Install the spring to match the prientation of the undisturbed side.

STEP 7 If necessary, replace the other thermal head using the same procedure.

STEP 8 Replace the printer mechanism, following the above instruction, and close the SPRINTER case. The printer may then be tested using test mode.

step 9 The printer should now be fully operational if the work has been successfully completed. It may be necessary to print for a while after service work, to allow the pressure heads to seat and the heads to wear in. Noticeable print lightness of either head, or print lightness at one side of either head indicates incorrect seating of the pressure plate. Correct and adjust before printing. Contact with paper is important; it must be uniform to avoid damage to the new heads.

STEP 10 If there is slight relative misalignment between the two thermal heads, either of the heads may be moved slightly with a small screwdriver after installation until satisfactory alignment is achieved. This must be a small movement, to avoid breaking contact between the conduction sites on the head and the ribbon cable under the pressure plate.

PAPER JAMS

Under normal operation, there should be no problem with paper jamming in the mechanism. In the event that small roll-ends of paper are removed or reinstalled into the printer, care should be taken that the tightly curled paper does not wrap under the paper stripper bar during the loading operation. If this does occur, the paper may begin to wrap around the platen until a thick roll of paper builds between the pressure plate and platen and stalls the printer. This is a difficult situation to remedy since the platen will not readily rotate backwards. It is best avoided by careful loading practices.

If such a jam does occur, unplug the SPRINTER to remove power and try the following techniques to remove the jam.

- 1. Release the pressure lever, tear off the supply of the paper, and attempt to push the incoming paper into the mechanism, thus unwinding it from the outside of the spiral. This will have to be repeated for as many times as the paper is wrapped around the platen.
- 2. If this method fails, slicing the paper across the roller may have to be attempted. An alternative is to remove the print mechanism from the case and massage the paper from around the roller.
- 3. NEVER under any circumstances place tools between the thermal heads and the platen. The probability of damage to the thermal heads is very high under these circumstances.

The best solution to this problem is PREVEN-TION, by careful loading of the printer in the first place and monitoring the correct feeding at the initiation of printing.

LUBRICATION

The printer mechanism does not normally require lubrication. Small amounts of grease are located on the oscillating bar where it enters the metal side plates of the printer. Unless this grease becomes contaminated with dirt or other foreign material, it need not be replaced. Prolonged operation of the unit at high temperatures may cause the lubricant to thin excessively. In the unlikely event that this occurs, a slightly heavier lubricant may be applied to the sliding contact surfaces. The motor is permanently lubricated and should not require additional lubrication during its service life.

DOT TIMING ADJUSTMENT

The controller board contains a potentiometer which is factory adjusted during assembly to set the thermal dot heating time correctly. This potentiometer should not be used as a 'volume control' to set user-preferred dot intensity levels. Operation at the extreme dark setting with normal tolerances on components may result in excessive heating times for the thermal heads. The factory setting is difficult to restore without a logic analyzer or storage oscilloscope, so tampering is unwise.

DOT ALIGNMENT

In the event that a replacement print mechanism is installed, it may be necessary to adjust the dot alignment drum on the printer. This is a serrated white plastic tab extending slightly from the rear of the printer behind the motor compartment. On new printers, this drum is secured with adhesive on the tab and/or on another smooth tab extending slightly from under the right side of the printer. The adhesive may be cracked by slightly moving the tab left or right. Moving this tab will cause alternate rows of dots to move left or right with respect to each other, thus achieving vertical alignment between rows.

The easiest method for achieving alignment is to place the SPRINTER into self test mode and then adjust the tab while it is printing. Since this must be accomplished with the protective case open, WE DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT THIS STEP BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE OWNER DUE TO THE POSSIBLE EXPOSURE TO LINE VOLTAGES INSIDE THE PLASTIC CASE.

FUSE SERVICE

In the event that the fuse fails due to thermal or mechanical abuse, it may be replaced by opening the case and removing it from the spring clips in the unit. NEVER OPEN THE CASE WITHOUT DISCONNECTING THE SPRINTER FROM THE POWER OUTLET AND FROM ANY OTHER DEVICE TO WHICH IT IS CONNECTED TO AVOID SERIOUS SHOCK HAZARD. Replace the fuse with a similar fuse of the same rating, to insure protection of the power supply and to prevent possible fire hazard. The correct fuse rating is identified on the external lable on the underside of the lower case.

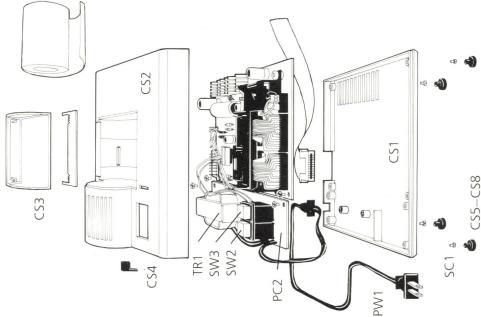
REPLACING THE VLSI CONTROLLER

In the event that the VLSI controller is damaged by incorrect interfacing or is being changed, it may be replaced by opening the case and removing it from the 40 pin socket. It should first be loosened by carefully inserting a thin blade screwdriver alternately under each end of the chip until it can be lifted from the socket. The pins on the replacement unit should be carefully checked to insure that they are correctly aligned, before inserting them into the socket. The chip should be oriented so that pin 1 (with the small dot molded into the corner) is nearest the left front corner of the SPRINTER.

Other maintenance requires laboratory service equipment and spare parts for the unit. Many dealers either offer this service or are familiar with local service centers in your area. If you cannot find satisfactory local service, a service and warranty service center operated by the manufacturer is available. Consult the warranty card enclosed for details.

COMPONENT PARTS IN THE SPRINTER 40 PACKAGE

Lower plastic main case with	label	Upper plastic main case with	nameplate	Plastic paper roll cover and cutter	Plastic paper release lever	Rubber feet	Power switch	Paper feed switch	Power printed circuit board	117 v 60 Hz Power cord	220 v 50 Hz Power cord	Slo-blo fuse	110/220 VAC 50-60 Hz 24 v	1.3 amp Power transformer	Set of case screws	User instruction manual	User warranty card
CS1		757		CS3	CS4	CS5-CS8	SW2	SW3	PC2	PW1	PW2	FU1	TR1		SC1	<u>M</u>	IM2



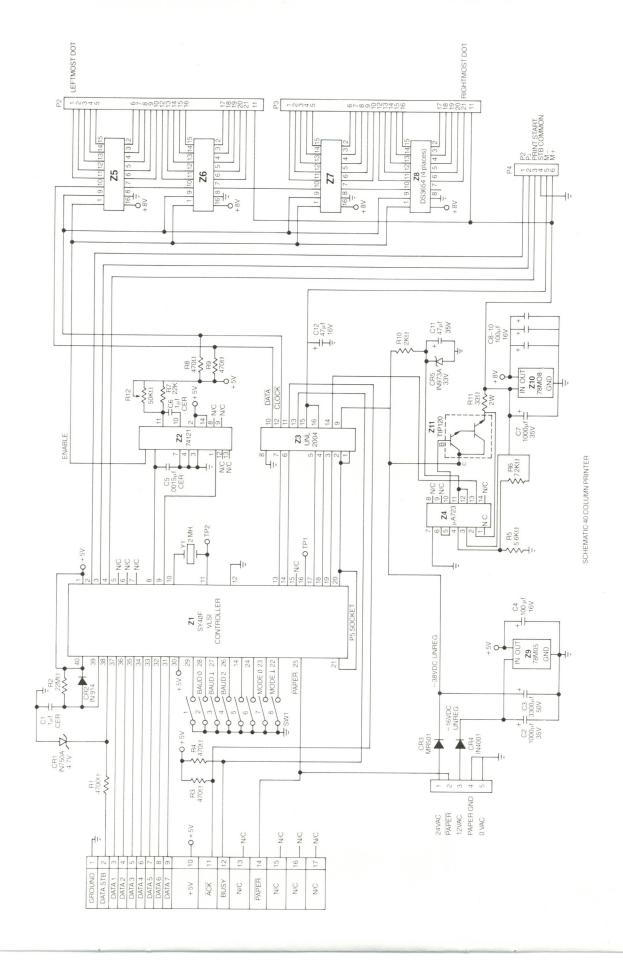
BOARD NAME	Z1	22	23 24
COMPONENT PARTS FOR	EM 1840	40 COLUMN PRINTER	CONTROLLER BOARD

USAGE

DESCRIPTION OF COMPONENT

		1000
21 22 23 24 25–28 29 210 211	SY40F (or SPRINTER 40) VLSI Controller 74121 One shot multivibrator ULN2004 Transistor Array LA723CN Precision voltage regulator DS3654 Solenoid Driver 5 volt regulator 7805 S volt regulator 7808 8 volt regulator 5 Amp Darlington Transistor	Main printer controller Thermal dot timer General drivers V th power regulator Thermal dot drivers 5 volt power regulator 8 volt power regulator V th pass transistor
C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6 C7 C11 C12	.1 µfd 12 volt ceramic disc 1000 µfd 35 volt Radial Electrolytic 3300 µfd 50 volt Axial Electrolytic 100 µfd 16 volt Radial Electrolytic .0015 µfd ceramic disc .1 µfd 12 volt ceramic disc 1000 µfd 35 volt Radial Electrolytic 47 µfd 35 volt Radial Electrolytic 47 µfd 16 volt Radial Electrolytic	Reset timing cap 5 volt raw DC capacitor Main raw DC capacitor 5 volt storage cap Input filter on 74121 Dot fiming cap V th storage capacitor 8 volt storage caps 723 supply cap Motor smoothing cap
CR1 CR2 CR3 CR4 CR5	1N750A 4.7 volt 400 mwatt Zenar Diode 1N914 Small Signal Diode MR501 Motorola 100 volt 3 amp Diode 1N4001 1 amp Diode 1N973A 33 volt 400 mwatt Zenar Diode	Serial Data clamp diode Reset cap charge drain V th power diode 5 volt power diode Voltage protect µa723

BOARD NAME	DESCRIPTION OF COMPONENT	USAGE
R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R10 R11	4700 ohm ½ watt resistor 22 Meg ohm ¼ watt resistor 470 ohm ¼ watt resistor 470 ohm ¼ watt resistor 5.6 Kohm ¼ watt resistor 7.2 Kohm ¼ watt resistor 22 Kohm ¼ watt resistor 470 ohm ¼ watt resistor 470 ohm ¼ watt resistor 2 Kohm ¼ watt resistor 33 ohm ½ watt resistor Piher 904 miniature pot 50 Kohm	RS-232 input Reset timing resistor ACK pullup BUSY pullup V th voltage setting V th voltage setting Sets basic dot time Dot CLOCK pullup Dot DATA pullup La723 supply resistor current sense resistor trims dot time
HS1-HS3 P1 P2-P3 P4 P5 SW1	Heat Sink IERC LAE66A4CB 5-pin Berg Stick 21-position Burndy Ribbon Socket 6-position Burndy Ribbon Socket 40 pin low profile DIP Socket 8 position solderable DIP switch	TO-220 heat sinks Connect to swtich PC Printer Connector Printer Connector Controller socket Sets controller modes
Y1 SC1–SC4 SC5–SC10 NU1–NU4 NU5–NU10	2 Mhz Crystal 8-32 ¼" long binder head screws 6-32 ¾" Hex Head Screws ¼" dia ¼" high 8-32 internally threaded swageable post 6-32 Hex Nuts	Controller oscillator printer to board heat sinks printer mounting heat sinks mounting
PC1 PR1	Printed Circuit Board 8" x 7.1" Single Sided FR-4 Olivetti PU 1840/4 40 column thermal printer	



RECOMMENDED PAPER TYPE JAPAN PAPER + PULP CO. (JUJO)

	TP50KM-A (BLACK)
	TP50CM-A (BLUE)
ROLLS	
	110MM WIDE
	40M LONG
	62MM DIAM MAX
NCR	
	ROLL OR FAN-FOLD PAPER TYPE NO.
	T-1301 (BLUE)
	T-1302 (BLACK)
FAN-FOLD	
	4.34×11" PAGE SIZE APPROX. 200 PAGES
ROLLS	

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2.45" DIAM MAX 4.34" WIDE 131 FEET LONG

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REAR EDGE-CONNECTOR PIN 1 GROUNI

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	-	GROUND (ON THE RIGHT, IN REAR VIEW)
	2	DATA/STROBE/SERIAL DATA
	3	DATA 1
	4	DATA 2
	5	DATA 3
	9	DATA 4
	7	DATA 5
	∞	DATA 6
	6	DATA 7
	10	+ 5VDC OUT
	=======================================	ACK
	12	BUSY
	13	NO CONNECTION
	14	PAPER FEED
	15	NO CONNECTION
	16	NO CONNECTION
	17	NO CONNECTION

ASCII 7-BIT-CODE CHARACTER-SET TABLE		
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